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July 25, 2005

To the Board of Selectmen – Town of Hamilton:

In recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, especially the War in Europe, and in gratitude for the ongoing recognition and support the Town of Hamilton has continued to give its veterans and service members, throughout the subsequent years, the Patton Family wishes to return to the Town, for its historical importance, the silver Revere bowl that was presented to the late General George S. Patton, Jr., upon his return to this, his hometown, in June of 1945.

According to newspaper accounts still preserved, thanks to the Hamilton Historical Society, on June 24, 1945 – exactly sixty years and one month from yesterday – ceremonies were held in this town, before as many as five- to seven-thousand area citizens, in which the Hamilton Selectmen, assisted by members of the A.P. Gardner Post of the American Legion, and a large number of children and young people, welcomed General Patton, their most senior local hero, back home again. In recognition of his extraordinary leadership, the Selectmen presented the General with this bowl, which is engraved as follows:

Presented by the Town of Hamilton
To a Great Soldier
General George S. Patton, Jr.
In appreciation of his gallant leadership
Of the Western Task Force,
Second Corps, the Seventh and Third Armies, in World War II
June 24, 1945

As you all know, General Patton returned to Europe after a very short visit stateside and then suffered an untimely accident which took his life before he could come home to Hamilton in his planned retirement. But through the years since 1945, the beautiful silver bowl has been treasured, admired, and displayed by the Patton Family as visible proof of the esteem in which the General was held by his hometown. Time has passed and both Mrs. Patton, the General's widow, and their three children have passed away. The Patton Family members of the surviving generations now believe that it is time to thank Hamilton, by returning the silver bowl to the Town's keeping. We hope that it may serve

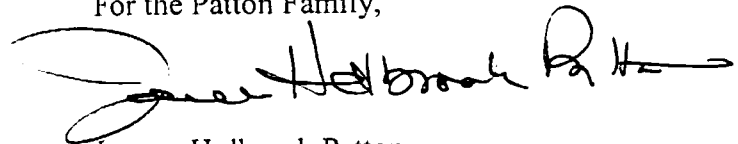
to remind the citizens of today and in the future of the sacrifices and service that have been made and continue to be made on our behalf and our country's, by men and women in uniform – General Patton and many, many others.

I would like to close with a quote from General George S. Patton, Jr. himself – words he spoke upon receiving the silver bowl from the people of Hamilton. I believe they speak to us today as strongly as they did in 1945.
He said this:

“It is difficult for you to stand here this afternoon, and realize what your sons, brothers, and husbands have kept from you. Your railroads are running, your bridges are still up, and your homes are still standing.”

We in Hamilton, Massachusetts, have a great deal to be thankful for in 2005. May this bowl of history continue to remind us of that.

For the Patton Family,



Joanne Holbrook Patton